

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1906

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 2424

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: APER, CGEN, CVIS

SUBJ:CONSULAR OPERATIONS AT BARBADOS

REF: STATE 297873

1. POST DISMAYED TO LEARN THAT LATIMER MAY NOT BE COMMISSIONED FOR WHAT MAY WELL BE SOME MONTHS YET THOUGH WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT DEPT CONTEMPLATING CHANGE IN REGULATIONS WHICH MIGHT GIVE HIM SIGNING AUTHORITY IN INTERIM. HOPE THIS CHANGE CAN BE REALIZED WITHIN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

2. IN MEANTIME, WE ARE OBLIGATED TO HAVE A VICE CONSUL TRAVEL TO SOME OF THE THE OTHER ISLANDS DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 12 TO 17 SINCE ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIP WERE MADE AND ISLAND GOVTS WERE INFORMED BEFORE IT WAS REALIZED THAT LATIMER COULD NOT FUNCTION AS CONOFF.

3. FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, WE HAVE INVITED 800 PERSONS TO APPLY FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS, MOST OF WHOM WE EXPECT WILL ACTUALLY SHOW UP FOR THEIR APPOINTMENTS. THIS VOLUME OF IMMIGRANT VISA APPOINTMENTS IS GREATLY IN EXCESS OF ANYTHING THIS POST HAS EVER HANDLED PREVIOUSLY. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE CAN HANDLE THE VOLUME FOR THIS MONTH BY CANCELING LEAVES AND TAKING OTHER STEPS. ALL PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT NEXT MONTH AND THE IMMEDIATELY SUCCEEDING MONTHS, WE MAY EXPECT TO RECEIVE AN EVEN GREATER NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS TO BE USED OR TO BE RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT. WE SIMPLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROCESS THE ADDITIONAL VOLUME UNLESS WE RECEIVE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, BOTH LOCAL AND AMERICAN.

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4. UNLESS LATIMER HAS SIGNING AUTHORITY AND AT LEAST ONE

MORE AMERICAN OFFICER IS ON BOARD BY JANUARY 1, POST CANNOT
CONTINUE TO MAKE VISA OFFICER CIRCUIT TRIPS REQUIRED BY
REGULATIONS AND WILL HAVE TO INFORM ISLANDS GOVERNMENTS TO
THIS EFFECT.
WOOLLONS

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